



Smoke Signal



CHATSWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
10385 Shadow Oak Drive, Chatsworth, CA 91311
(818)-882-5614 www.historicalsocieties.net

Co-Presidents: Andre & Linda van der Valk

Editor : Keith Watts

NOVEMBER, 2006



CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

We would like to start off with thanking Bea Berman for organizing another very successful Pioneer Day. As always she did a great job and ordered perfect weather for us. What we like best about these events is watching everyone's families pitch in and help. You always see Bea's family pitching in and helping, especially her granddaughter Jessica who wants Bea to show her how to run Pioneer Day in case Grannie can't do it anymore.

Our family as well pitches in and helps with set up, selling hot dogs and taking down, but what we enjoyed the most was watching our two granddaughters, Hunter (6) and Bryce (5), helping selling hot dogs and, at the end of the day, putting away tables and chairs with energy to spare. John (9) and Kenny (5) Huffman were making sure that all the trash was picked up off the grounds and helping the girls with the table and chairs. It is nice to see what we hope will be the future generations helping and hopefully wanting to continue the tradition of the Homestead Acre and share our dedication to the community.

Since we won't be having a December issue of the Smoke Signal, mark your calendars for December 19th for the Historical Society Christmas party at our house. It starts at 7:00 p.m. If you want to bring a guest feel free to do so.

Our address is 10524 Eton Avenue, Chatsworth. Please leave an RSVP at the Acre 882-5614. If you forget to RSVP you can still come, we just want to get an approximate count.

Happy Holidays,
Linda and Andre

Chatsworth Historical Society Board of Directors 2005-2007		
Co-Presidents.....	Linda & Andre van der Valk	882-3661
Programs, Ways & Means.....	Bea Berman	341-5449
Membership.....	Keith Watts	341-4489
Treasurer.....	Lillian Schepler	341-2697
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Smoke Signal.....	Keith Watts	341-4489
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Cottage Curator.....	Betty Summers	341-2714
Hospitality.....	Committee	
Garden Director.....	Jim & Betty Summers	341-2714
Director-at-Large.....	Ruth Grant	882-3992
Permanent Member.....	Lila Schepler	341-3447



"Happy 90th Birthday, Lillian"

..... Virginia Watson

At our program meeting last month we surprised our longtime Treasurer with a cake honoring her 90th birthday. I thought some of our members might want to know why we decided to honor Lillian. To begin with she has been our Treasurer for at least 12 years. It was her job to get the money ready for our big events like the Garden Festival and Pioneer Day, handing out the change, counting the money and banking it. All that in addition to keeping track of our membership and giving reports.

Before that she served as president several times and has been a member for about 40 of our 43 years as a Society. Lillian's husband, Frank H. Schepler, Jr. was one of our early members and he helped move the church. Many of our early meetings were held at their home and so Lillian participated before she personally was a member. She has spent many long hours baking for the frequent

bake sales we had when we first started and also working on the yard sales that supported our society for so many years. She has been a board member in some capacity every year since she joined. She was president of CHS when we had the vandalism at the church and she worked with our insurance company to settle our claim. And the plumbing for the church was put in during her reign. She has been a docent, wearing her costume and giving tours, since shortly after we started the docent program.

Lillian enjoys photography as a hobby and has taken pictures of most of our activities filling our scrapbooks and preserving our progress as a society. In addition her cheerful smile and friendly manner make it easy to work on projects along with her. Her achievements in the community are legendary and yet she continues to be a vital source of leadership inspiring others to continue in her busy footsteps.

So "Happy 90th Birthday, Lillian Schepler" from the grateful Chatsworth Historical Society.

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

Since Veterans Day occurs this month, our November program will be appropriate and interesting. Hannah Almstead from the Quilt Society will tell about the project of the Veterans Quilts and display a few. Please tell your friends and let's have a good showing.

*Tuesday, November 21, 7:00 p.m.,
Homestead Acre.*

Refreshments to follow. See you there.

Howard ~~Berman~~ Dunbar

PIONEER DAY REFLECTIONS

.....Bea Berman, Chairman

The October Smoke Signal went to press before our Pioneer Day so I hope I don't bore you with all my thanks. We had a tremendous success and made about \$4,000.00. It couldn't have happened without all the help. My thank-you list may be long and I hope I didn't forget anyone; if so, please forgive me as I may have a senior moment. I realize I am getting older because it took me a whole week to recuperate.

First of all, I'd like to thank Councilman Greig Smith and his wife for coming out and being one of our chili judges. Of course Buck from the Munch Box and his son Andy, were also judges. Buck sponsored our first-place trophy and first-place prize of \$50.00. The winners were Tim Imel from Neighborhood Council - 1st place, Randi Bercow - 2nd place and Jungle Chile - 3rd place.

It was great having our blacksmith back again; Pat Keene from Keene Engineering brought his group for the gold panning; Ray & Ann Vincent for the Railroad Ties; Beth & Jay Mall for their gun collection; Hannah Almstead and Ruth Grant for the quilt display and the kids designing quilt squares; DWP for their great exhibit. We have to thank the Woodcarvers and Rock Chippers. I owe a special thanks to Kathy Reynolds and her crew for organizing all the kids games and chores of yore.

Our docents were a tremendous help, both before and after. Virginia Watson manned the museum during the event, Lillian Schepler took care of the money boxes and took care of the information booth, along with Leuise Mitchell. Lila Schepler and Beverly King gave tours of the cottage; Janine Bergez took over the plant booth as Betty and Jim were at a Barbershop competition. I can't forget Loretta and Rod Sandavol for all the great pastries and taking care of the bake sale. Rick and Jerry, formerly from Chatsworth Florist, for all their help. My son in law Gary for his antics

while cooking hot dogs. In the absence of Elaine Campbell, the White Elephant booth was manned by Jelena Csanyi.

Ralphs Market gave us a \$25.00 certificate to buy supplies; and I feel bad that we are losing Magic World as he always donated balloons and helium tanks for the kids to use. Also thanks to Andy Gump for the donation of the Porta Potties. I can't forget my faithful gate people, Irene Nalbandian and Ingrid Lindquist for doing such a good job at the entrance. Tom Harrison is my all around guy and filled in wherever needed. Last, but not least, a big thanks to Linda and Andre for being such great presidents and doing so much and making my job a little easier.

I never thank my daughter Mindy for doing the flyers over and over again with all the changes, and my grand-daughter Jessica who always wants to help and followed me around so she could learn everything and "take over when I can't do it". I did forget the kids from Chaminade who helped out.

Now it's a two month rest and then on to planning the Garden Festival. I did forget someone: I want to thank Christian Lutz from Chatsworth Park Recreation for helping us on his day off and donating the coffee. Thanks to Art and Glen for the great entertainment.

UPCOMING DATES

The Metrolink's Links's Holiday Toy Express is coming to town. There will be a show, a special visit from Santa as well as collecting new, unwrapped toys for the Firefighter's "Spark of Love" toy drive.

Saturday, December 16th the Holiday Train will be visiting the Chatsworth Train Station at 5:00 p.m. and the Northridge Station at 7:00 p.m. The events will begin an hour prior to the train arrival: Chatsworth will begin at 4:00 and Northridge will begin at 5:00.

Chatsworth Neighborhood Council meeting on December 6, 7:00 p.m. at Lawrence Middle School.

SOME VALLEY DATES - November and December

Americassuburbs.comLinda

NOV. 1, 1938

Community of North Los Angeles changes its name to Northridge.

NOV. 2, 1947

Devonshire Downs harness racing track opens in Northridge.

NOV. 4, 1968

Black students take over the Valley State College administration building in a protest sparked by hard feelings at a campus football game.

NOV. 5, 1913

Los Angeles Aqueduct from the Owens Valley opens in a big ceremony at the foot of Newhall Pass.

Nov. 9, 1920

Olive View tuberculosis sanitarium opens at Sylmar.

NOV. 9, 1946

First San Fernando Valley air show is held at Van Nuys Airport.

NOV. 25, 1873

Railroad tracks from Los Angeles reach the townsite of San Fernando, connecting the Valley to the larger world.

DEC. 1, 1959

Los Angeles Airways begins short lived helicopter service between Van Nuys and Los Angeles International Airport.

DEC. 2, 1959

Bookie Jack Whalen murdered in the presence of mobster Mickey Cohen at Rondelli's in Sherman Oaks. Cohen is charged in the murder but gets off.

DEC. 5, 1845

Pio Pico leases Rancho Ex-Mission San Fernando to his brother Andres, beginning 25 years of Pico stewardship of the Valley.

DEC. 10, 1958

Cult leader Khrishna Venta, nee Francis Pencovic, dies when jealous ex-followers dynamite his compound in Box Canyon.

DEC. 11, 1930

Community of Tarzana recognized by U.S. Post Office

DEC. 16, 1911

Pacific Electric Red Cars from Los Angeles reach Van Nuys.

DEC. 17, 1952

Ground broken for Anheuser-Busch brewery in Van Nuys.

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